

REMARKS

Claims 2-8, 17, 20, 23, and 26-28 are pending in this application.

Applicant has amended claims 2-5, 17, 20, 23, 27, and 28, and has canceled claims 1 and 16. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 5-8 and 17 define allowable subject matter. As will be explained in more detail below, Applicant has amended the claims to place the subject application in condition for immediate allowance.

Claim Amendments

Applicant has rewritten each of claims 5 and 17 in independent form. In light of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, present independent claims 5 and 17 define allowable subject matter. In light of the changes to claims 5 and 17, Applicant has canceled independent claims 1 and 16.

Applicant has amended each of independent claims 20 and 23 to include subject matter that corresponds to that specified in allowable claims 5 and 17. As such, present claims 20 and 23 are believed to define allowable subject matter.

Applicant has amended each of claims 2-4, 27, and 28 to depend from claim 5 (instead of former claim 1).

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-3, 16, 20, 23, 26, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Shimizu et al.* ("Shimizu") (US 2003/0112293 A1) in view of *Otsuki* (US 6,652,067 B2) (as noted above, Applicant has canceled claims 1 and 16).

As discussed above, Applicant has amended independent claims 20 and 23 to include subject matter that has been indicated to be allowable. Further, each of present claims 2, 3, 26, and 27 ultimately depends from claim 5, which defines allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, independent claims 20 and 23, as amended herein, are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of *Shimizu* in view of *Otsuki*. Claims 2, 3, 26, and 27 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of *Shimizu* in view of *Otsuki* for at least the reason that each of these claims ultimately depends from claim 5.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Shimizu* and *Otsuki*, and further in view of *Shimada et al.* (“*Shimada*”) (US 6,293,643 B1). Present claim 4 depends from claim 5, which defines allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 4 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the combination of *Shimizu* in view of *Otsuki* and *Shimada* for at least the reason that this claim depends from claim 5.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of claims 2-8, 17, 20, 23, and 26-28, as amended herein, and submits that these claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. In the event a telephone conversation would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner may reach the undersigned at **(408) 749-6902**. If any additional

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fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, then the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. MIPFP083).

Respectfully submitted,
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